amend

I Claim

~~Patent Claims~~

1. Method for electronic archiving of the data stream (5) output by a computer (2) in a computer-specific data format (IPDS, PCL) that contains graphic and/or text information, whereby the data stream (5) is converted from the printer-specific data format (IPDS, PCL) into a data format based on pixels (bitmap, TIF), characterized in that form data (8) are distinguished from variable data (9) in the data stream (5) based on pixels; and in that these two data types (8, 9) are respectively differently processed.

2. Method according to claim 1, characterized in that references to the form data (80 are allocated to the variable data (9).

3. Method according to claim 1 or 2, characterized in that a form dataset of identical form data is stored only once within a predetermined data group (job), whereas the allocated variable data of all datasets of the data group (job) are all respectively stored.

4. Method according to one of the claims 1 through 3, characterized in that a distinction between form data (8) and variable data (9) ensues in the printer-specific data format.

5. Method according to claim 4, characterized in that form indicators for recognizing form data (8) are sought in the data stream (5).

6. Method according to claim 4 or 5, characterized in that the data of the data stream (5) are first investigated in groups for form data, and the allocation between the variable data (9) and the form data (8) only ensues given repeated occurrence of form data (8).

7. Method according to claim 6, characterized in that overlay information, particularly control information, macro information, graphic information, predetermined text modules and/or predetermined text attributes are employed as form indicators.

8. Method according to one of the claims 4 through 7, characterized in that a form dataset is stored after the first occurrence within the predetermined data group (job) of the print data stream and is only marked as form dataset, converted into a

form bitmap (20a, 20b, 20c) and allocated to the appertaining variable dataset 990 after a repeated, particularly a second occurrence.

9. Method according to one of the preceding claims, characterized in that, with a work sequence, either printing or archiving is optionally implemented or

5 printing and archiving are simultaneously implemented.

10. Method according to one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the form data are not stored in the archive storage (3).

11. Method according to one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the original pixel image is reconstructed from the form data (8) and the variable data

10 (9).

12. Method according to one of the preceding claims, characterized in that a superimposition of the form data (80 and the variable data (9) ensues upon employment of references.

13. Method according to one of the preceding claims, characterized in that

15 an index dataset is generated.

14. Method according to one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the index dataset contains a reference to the variable data (9), particularly to the form data (8).

15. Apparatus for electronic archiving of the data stream (5) output by a

20 computer (2) [...] a printer-specific data format (IPDS, PCL) that contains graphic and/or text information, whereby the print data stream (5) is converted from the printer-specific data format (IPDS, PCL) into a data format based on pixels (bitmap. TIF), characterized in that an archiving interface (1) is provided that differently processes form data (8) in the data format based on pixels (bitmap, TIF) and variable

25 data.

16. Apparatus according to claim 15, characterized by a printer controller (6) that transfers variable data (9), form data (8) and index data (10) to a further-processing computer (PC) via an interface.

17. Apparatus according to claim 16, whereby the processing units of the

30 further-processing computer (PC) are integrated in the printer controller.

18. Apparatus according to claim 15 through 17, characterized in that a distinction is made between form data (8) and variable data (9) in the archiving interface (1).

19. Apparatus according to one of the claims 15 through 18, characterized

5   in that the data stream (5) is investigated in the printer-specific data format for distinguishing between form data (8) and variable data (9).